

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 012752

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SC, XF

SUBJECT: PAKISTANI PROBE ON US ATTITUDE TOWARDS MODERATE
ARAB RESOLUTION AT SECURITY COUNCIL

1. PAKISTANI CHARGE RIZA CALLED ON ATHERTON JANUARY 16 TO
EXPLORE LATEST USG THINKING ON MIDDLE EAST SECURITY
COUNCIL DEBATE. RIZA SAID PAK MISSION AT UN BELIEVES VOTE
ON SOME KIND OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION IS INEVITABLE
AND INDICATED PAKISTANI DESIRE TO BE HELPFUL TO US. HE
SAID EXTREMIST ARABS WERE ARGUING THAT SINCE US VETO IS
INEVITABLE THE PROPOSED RESOLUTION SHOULD REFLECT TOTAL
ARAB VIEWS. ACCORDING TO RIZA, MODERATE ARABS BELIEVE
ARAB CAUSE BETTER SERVED BY MODERATE
RESOLUTION. RIZA SAID THAT PAKISTANI DELEGATION WOULD
LIKE TO STRENGTHEN HAND OF MODERATES, AND ASKED WHAT PAK
DELEGATION COULD TELL ARAB MODERATES ABOUT US ATTITUDE THAT
MIGHT ENCOURAGE EMERGENCE OF MODERATE RESOLUTION.

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2. ATHERTON SAID WE APPRECIATED PAKISTANI DESIRE TO BE

HELPFUL AND WANTED TO BE SURE REASONS FOR AND OBJECTIVES OF OUR POSITION WERE UNDERSTOOD. HE THEN REVIEWED IN DETAIL US ATTITUDE ON CURRENT MIDDLE EAST DEBATE ALONG LINES REPORTED FULLY IN OTHER MESSAGES, PLACING EMPHASIS

ON WELL-KNOWN US INTENTION TO BLOCK RESOLUTION THAT MIGHT DAMAGE NEGOTIATING FRAMEWORK. LOOKING FURTHER AHEAD, HE STRESSED US DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATING PROCESS FOLLOWING SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE, AND SAID US ATTITUDE TOWARD ANY RESOLUTION, THEREFORE, WOULD BE DETERMINED BY OUR JUDGMENT AS TO WHETHER OR NOT RESOLUTION DAMAGES BASIC GENEVA CONFERENCE FRAMEWORK FOR NEGOTIATIONS BASED ON RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338. THAT FRAMEWORK HAD BEEN CONSTRUCTED WITH GREAT DIFFICULTY OVER RECENT YEARS AND HAD BEEN ACCEPTED BY ALL STATES DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE CONFLICT. TO CHANGE OR AMPLIFY IT IN WAYS THAT MADE IT UNACCEPTABLE TO ONE PARTY WOULD SERIOUSLY UNDERMINE OUR ABILITY TO REVIVE NEGOTIATING PROCESS AFTER THE DEBATE, AND IT WAS ONLY IN SUCH A PROCESS--IN WHICH ALL ISSUES COULD BE CONSIDERED--THAT PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE WOULD BE MADE.

3. IN REPLY TO SPECIFIC QUESTION REGARDING US ATTITUDE ON POSSIBLE MODERATE RESOLUTION, ATHERTON SAID WE WOULD OF COURSE HAVE TO SEE FULL TEXT OF SUCH RESOLUTION AND THEN MAKE DETERMINATION. HE BELIEVED, HOWEVER, THAT EMERGENCE OF RESOLUTION THAT US WOULD NOT RPT NOT HAVE TO VETO UNLIKELY ON BASIS OF IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS CURRENTLY UNDER DISCUSSION IN UN CORRIDORS.

4. RIZA SAID HE WOULD ADVISE THE PAK MISSION IN NEW YORK OF ATHERTON'S RESPONSE, OBSERVING THAT IN CIRCUMSTANCES THERE DID NOT SEEM TO BE ANYTHING PAKISTAN COULD DO TO HELP. KISSINGER

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